

# ESA Voucher Accountability Bills 2023

Last year, SOSAZ warned lawmakers that Gov. Ducey's 2022 universal ESA voucher expansion would bankrupt our state. This year, universal ESA vouchers are costing the state \$200 million in entirely unbudgeted costs. The JLBC projects the program will cost \$376 million in unbudgeted costs in 2024, with no no financial or academic accountability for taxpayers.

This irresponsible, unbudgeted rollout has left Arizonans with no way to know how our tax dollars are being used, whether voucher schools are meeting students' needs, or even where the extra funding is going to come from. The ESA voucher program needs serious accountability to protect against grift and abuse of taxpayer dollars, and to improve academic and safety standards.

**These bills would create desperately needed accountability for ESA vouchers:**

**[SB1706 \(Marsh\)](#) / [HB2764 \(Pawlik\)](#)** Creates reporting that requires the ADE to release more information about who is using ESA vouchers and how taxpayer funds are being spent

**[SB1707 \(Marsh\)](#) [HB2782 \(Schwiebert\)](#)** Requires the legislature to appropriate sufficient funding for the universal ESA voucher program each year, ensuring responsible budgeting

**[SB1708 \(Marsh\)](#) / [HB2662 \(Pawlik\)](#)** Requires academic testing for ESA students in grades 3-12, exempting students with special needs. This evens the playing field, helps parents know whether their children are learning, and allows taxpayers to know whether their dollars are being used responsibly.

**[SB1266 \(Marsh\)](#) / [HB2688 \(Terech\)](#)** Schools with one or more ESA students must require their employees to obtain a valid fingerprint clearance card as a condition of employment, improving student safety

**[SB1498 \(Marsh\)](#)** Requires voucher schools that accept ESA students with special needs to inform families what IEP or 504 services they will provide before families pay tuition or fees

**Reach out to your lawmakers TODAY!**

Use our [one-click email tool](#) to demand accountability for universal ESA vouchers. Emailing only takes 2 minutes!